

## *Impact Evaluation on Erosion and Sedimentation*

**The purpose of the study is to determine if changes in TVA's reservoir system operating policies would produce greater overall public value.**

### **Background**

TVA is conducting a formal evaluation of its policies for operating the Tennessee River reservoir system, including an analysis of the economic impacts of any potential changes in these policies. Existing policies affect how much reservoir levels fluctuate, when changes in reservoir levels occur, and the amount of water flowing through the reservoir system at different times of the year, depending on rainfall.

The purpose of the study is to determine if changes in TVA's reservoir system operating policies would produce greater overall public value. Technical analyses will be performed to evaluate the impacts of TVA's current policies and the potential impacts of alternatives on a number of resource areas and other issues.

The two-year Reservoir Operations Study (ROS) is scheduled for completion in October 2003.

The impacts on erosion and sedimentation will be evaluated as part of the ROS, and the results will be documented in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). TVA will conduct the study in accordance with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements.

### **Potential Impacts**

- Erosion has been identified as an issue on most TVA reservoirs and on several downstream river channels.
- Changes in reservoir system operating policies could change normal summer and winter reservoir levels, when changes in reservoir levels occur, and the rate of water released from the dams.
- These changes could increase or decrease the amount of energy delivered by flowing water and/or change the location of areas affected by wave action.

### **Geographic Areas**

- The region considered for this analysis is immediately adjacent to and within about 50 feet of TVA reservoirs and tailwaters.

### **Scope of Analysis**

- Physical conditions, such as soil types and vegetation characteristics, will be evaluated to determine the impact of any proposed changes.

### **For More Information**

To submit comments or get additional information, members of the public are invited to visit TVA's Web site at [www.tva.com](http://www.tva.com), to call toll-free 888-882-7675, to fax TVA at 865-632-3146, or to write to ROS Project Manager David Nye, Tennessee Valley Authority, c/o WT 11A, 400 West Summit Hill Dr., Knoxville, TN 37902.